

‘Share That Abundance with Those in Need’

Fr. Donald Senior’s Homily Encourages Health Care Professionals to Serve and Heal Patients Unable to Care for Themselves

BY SR. PATRICIA A. TALONE, RSM, Ph.D.



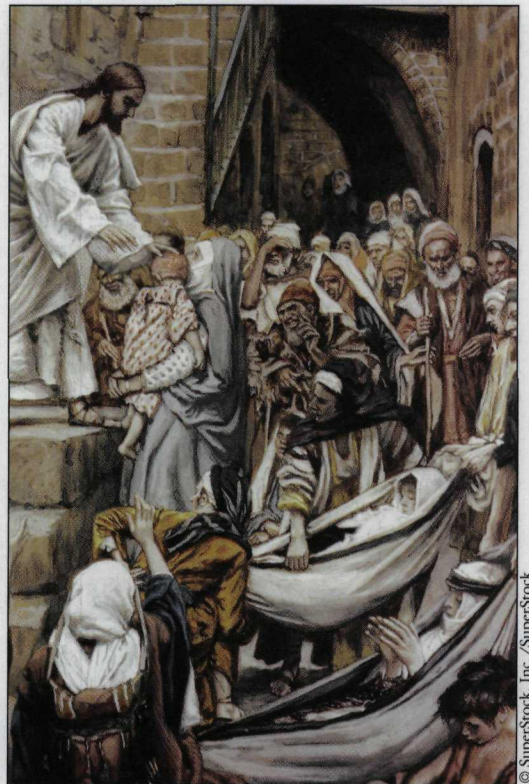
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Jesus works miracles in Catholic health care. He continues to work miracles every day through the faith, commitment, skills and dedication of women and men committed to his healing ministry.

At a program jointly sponsored by the Catholic Health Association and the Center for Health Care Governance titled, “Holding in Trust: Catholic Health Care Governance,” participants reflected upon this reality as they gathered for Eucharistic celebration on May 13, 2008, in Chicago. Fr. Donald Senior, CP, president of Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, and renowned scripture scholar, presided at liturgy and preached about scarcity and abundance in the day’s scripture readings, particularly *Mark 8:14-21*. Fr. Senior’s homily, starting on p. 45, reflects the tension that all in Catholic health care feel today — the tension between the richness and excellence of our clinical services and the tensions we experience as we realize that all that we do is never enough.

The healing stories in the Gospels form the bedrock of Catholic health care as they paint a picture for us not simply of what Jesus did, but how he did what he did. We read that Jesus touched the sick, reached out, listened, comforted and chided the many people who followed him, seeking him out in even the remotest places. Jesus did not treat every person who came to him in exactly the same way. He treated each one as an individual, often anticipating a person’s needs. Because the healing stories of the Gospels are God’s word, carrying with them light and life, we offer a partial list of healing narratives for your personal and communal reading, prayer and reflection.

Fr. Senior’s homily touched the hearts of his



“In the Villages, the Sick were Brought out to Him” by James Tissot (1836-1902)/Watercolor on Paper

congregation, reminding listeners that each one of us faces both abundance and scarcity as we seek to live out Jesus’ healing ministry. His words are particularly apt for clinicians — physicians, nurses, therapists — as they seek to serve and heal women and men who are often unable to care for themselves. Jesus speaks to each one of us, as he did to his disciples when he asked, “Do you not understand?” that you do not work alone. His abiding presence lives within each community of healers gathered in His name. ■